



The Wellington Embroiderers' Guild Inc

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November 2019, Issue 487

November Meeting – Wednesday 13 November 2019

The Loaves and Fishes Hall, St Paul's Cathedral, Hill Street. Hall opens at 7.00pm; meeting begins at 7.30pm. Tea and coffee available after the hall opens at 7:00pm.

This month our speaker will be Cara from Sew Exquisite.

Sew Exquisite is a branch of the Indonesian NGO – Yayasan Silih Asih (Love One Another Foundation). We train and employ women in rural West Java to create beautiful cross-stitched decorations and ornaments. All profit from Sew Exquisite is re-invested into our Foundation to support our peace education programmes and social work.

Creating exquisite cross-stitch designs is satisfying and empowering as our women are able to work from home while caring for their families. We care for our workers and invest time getting to know each worker and their family. Currently Sew Exquisite employs around 60 part-time stitchers and 4 full-time sewers.

Taken from their website: www.sewexquisite.co.nz

Treasurer Role

As expressed at the AGM in May, I have been happy to continue on as treasurer for a second year but I am unable to continue beyond that due to family and study commitments. It would be good to start passing this role over to someone else before the year ends in March and I am happy to show them the ropes!

The role includes managing the bank accounts, paying the bills (all online), banking the cash, recording transactions and putting together the accounts. Also the role looks after recording the membership details and clearing the post box.

There is no great difficulty in any of this and made even easier the more time there is to hand it over.

If this interests you, please let me know via the treasurer email Weg.tres@gmail.com and we can get together and plan the handover.

Sara Keppel

Botanical Dye Exhibition and Workshops



What a wonderful workshop. We all came away with an array of shades of pink, green, gold and grey ribbon, tape, thread and sample swatches.

The workshop started with Barbara explaining that we would be dyeing a selection of silk and cotton fibres – some already alum mordanted which would help with the take up off dye and the lightfastness over time. And that we'd also play with iron mordant post dyeing so we could see the drastic colour change mordants have.

Preparing materials for dyeing

We learnt during the session that animal proteins (wool and silk) take up dye more easily as they have scaled coatings that open up in water and so absorb dye really well. If you want to dye plant based fibres such as cotton and linen you need a pre-mordant to make the dye settle into the fibres. You can use mordants like



Alum Sulfate at a concentration of 15% of weight of fibre or iron mordant which can be created at home by soaking iron scraps in a jar of water with a splash of vinegar for a week or so.

If you are dyeing fabrics such as wool and cotton you will need to also scour them first to remove any treatments/stains. Put in a pan and heat just below boiling. Sit for an hour and then rinse in hot water. Not cold as it will shrink the fibres. For cottons you can boil with shampoo as this is usually pH neutral. (The water in Wellington is also fortunately neutral with a pH of 7). For silks don't heat as you will remove the lustre. Use a cold mordant instead.

Before dyeing pre-wet fibres and fabrics/ You can soak for 1 hour in warm water. This makes the fibres swell and become receptive to dye.

Preparing dye baths

For the workshop we used natural dyes from the home (onion skins) and Aro Valley (agonis flexuosa commonly known as willow myrtle); eucalyptus cinerea and Lac which is a natural dye that is extracted from scale insects (Kerria lacca) found in Asia.

Barbara created dye baths by boiling the plant matter in water for 1 hour, then removing the fibrous matter before we dipped the materials and left them to soak up the dye. The materials were left in the bath until we were satisfied with the depth of colour – remembering to do darker as they would become lighter when dried.

After the initial dyeing, we washed the fibres in warm water and hung them to dry.

We then added iron mordant and grated turmeric to some of the dye baths to change their colour and then re-dipped some fibres and also added undyed fibres to vary the range colours we had.

Suppliers:

Fabric and threads - <https://www.beautifulsilks.com>

Dyes - <https://maiwa.com/> and

<https://www.kraftkolour.net.au>

Caroline O'Reilly



Photos by Caroline O'Reilly

of

Maker Faire

On Sunday 20 October a group of Guild members joined an eclectic mix of other creatives at the Makers Faire for hand on demonstrations, interactive exhibits, workshops and displays.

It is a global movement - there are 240+ Maker Faires around the world gathering fascinating, curious people who love sharing what they can do. The Wellington Makers Faire was run in Shed 6 at the TSB Bank Arena coordinated by Capital E and it was an excellent fit for us!!

It's a family showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness. From robotics and media to upcycling to wood and fabrics. We were joined by tinkerers, other crafters, artists and tech

transformers. It was a fun family event where preschoolers through to nonagenarians could explore and enjoy new skills and ideas.



With 4,000 people expected through the doors we waited under our lovely new creative and clearly visible "We love 2 stitch" banner, designed and made by Susan Wright, for the crowds to arrive. And they did!!



We went with enthusiasm to inspire others to stitch. Our aim was to create a friendly and welcoming environment to encourage the children and adults to get in touch with their creative side using fun and engaging interactive activities.

We welcomed young and young-at-heart visitors and encouraged them to learn, play and have fun while experimenting with stitches and different techniques to create gorgeous colour combinations of their choice. Hearts and buttons of varying colours and brightly coloured threads were very

popular.

Huge thanks to Susan Wright who took the reins and guided us through, Anne Whitehead who had the vision that we could do this, Marie Cassino, Bridget Quigan, Marjorie Thomas, Heather Smith, Judy Wright and Suzi Penny for donating their time, Caroline O'Reilly and Vinnies Re Sew for materials for the kits, Sarah Hooker for items from the sale table, Rhiannon McKinstry for ordering more business cards and Mary Self from Nancy's for the stitching brochures.

We all enjoyed sharing our knowledge, ideas and passion throughout the day. The highlight was the look of delight on the faces of the children and their parents as they saw their gorgeous creations emerge.



We have received a lot of positive feedback from the children and more importantly from their parents, hopefully we have sewn a few seeds for a future generation of stitchers and guild members !! The experience comes highly recommended. I would love to be involved again, count me in for next year.

Sally Ross

From a parent

Hi

My daughter spent some time today with Susie at Maker Faire. She had a great time stitching - so much so that as soon as we got home she wanted to do more! Thought I would send you a photo of her with her supplies at home.

Thank you for inspiring an 8 year old today, and thanks Susie for sharing your time and knowledge.

Kind regards

Angela



Suffrage in Stitches

Wellington museum have announced the dates for the Suffrage in Stitches Summer Exhibition (10 December – 27 April 2020) and we need some help to get the panels ready for this exhibition

In preparation they have asked for tape to be sewn on the back of the panels instead of the work being hung by safety pins. They are concerned that with the current number of makers volunteering to do this the task isn't going to get done in time so the team are reaching out to colleagues in the Guild to see if anyone can go to the museum on the following dates anytime between 10 – 5pm to help hand sew the tape (which has Velcro stitched on it) to the top of the panels.

Thursday 31st October, Monday 4th November, Thursday 7th November, Tuesday 12th November, Friday 15th November, Saturday 16th November, Sunday 17th November, Tuesday 19th November, Wednesday 21st November, Thursday 22nd November, Friday 23rd November and Saturday 25th November.

The work is taking place on the first floor in The WES&CA room and the contact at the museum is Matt Henry. He is logging boxes in and out of the archive and bringing the materials from his office. Amelia Ruscoe, one of the makers has kindly made a paper guide for people to use to cut the tape and velcro and Stephanie Butler a calico sample to help show where to hand stitch the prepped velcro tape.

Are you able to help prepare the panels ready for the next hanging of the work in December?

Any help will be gratefully received. Just email resew@vinnieswgtn.org.nz for further info.

October Meeting



The October meeting was a time to stitch, socialise and make preparations for the Maker Faire.

The theme of traditional work struck a cord with the largest number of exhibits ever.

Thanks to Sally R, Marie C, Sarah H, Adrienne H, Joan A and Mary T for bringing their traditional work pieces to share with the Guild.

2019 – 2020 Exhibitions, Events and Workdays

13 and 14 November 2019 Kapiti Guild is hosting a 2 day Wessex Embroidery workshop taught by Julie Clemmett. Cost \$90

10 December to 27th April 2020 Suffrage in Stitches Summer Exhibition Wellington Museum

15 March 2020 WEG Regional Workday

20-22 March 2020 Wanaka Embroidery School <https://www.oegembroideryschool.co.nz/>

27 – 29 March 2020 Great Escape 2020 Orewa – paper and on-line catalogues are available. www.embroiderersgreatescape.com

10 – 16 July 2020 Vision 2020 – Biennial Conference to be held in Masterton

New Guild Group Drop in Stitch-in

A reminder about the new Drop in Stitch-in group held at Wellington Museum on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 4pm. Pop in with your stitching for an hour or several. Whether you are a beginner or experienced, all are welcome. Next stitch-in **2 November**.

Johnsonville Stitch in November

Just a reminder that the Johnsonville Stitch in on the 16 November is starting at the earlier time of **1pm** with a shared lunch. Please bring a plate, along with your stitching. All Welcome.

Guild Groups

You and your friends are always welcome at these Guild groups

Drop in Stitch-in Contact: TBC	10am - 4pm Wellington Museum First Saturday of the month. Ask at Reception when you arrive for directions. Tea and coffee will be available from the kitchen (which is opposite the room).
Johnsonville Stitch-in Contact: Marie Trethowen 237-6344	1.30-4.30pm at Johnsonville Community Centre (third Saturday of the month). Gold coin koha for afternoon tea. Please bring a piece of work for show and tell.
Lower Hutt Stitch-in Contact: Lynn Newman 566-1561	1.00pm-4.00pm (second Saturday of the month) at the Hutt Art Centre, cnr Huia and Myrtle Sts. Cost \$6.
1st TEG First Thursday Exhibition Group Contact: Louise Day 568-8088	On the first Thursday of the month we visit an exhibition and meet for lunch beforehand at a nearby cafe. An email is sent out to members the weekend before the first Thursday of the month.

Committee

Anne Whitehead Ph. 476 7227 (President)

Sara Keppel (Treasurer)

Judy Wright (Committee member)

Caroline O'Reilly (Committee member)

Almoner: Joan Adam hjadam@xtra.co.nz If you know of anyone needing congratulations or a kind word

Marie Cassino (Secretary)

Mary Trounson (Newsletter Editor)

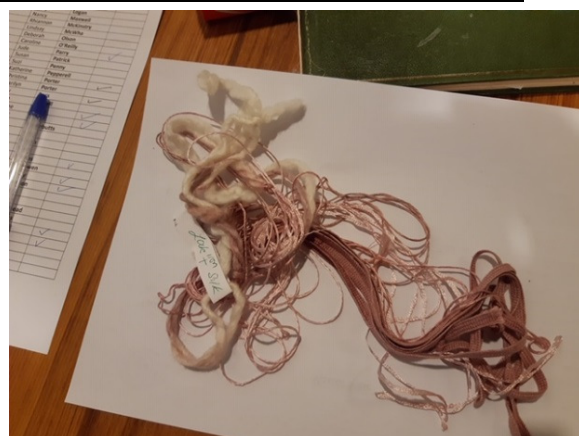
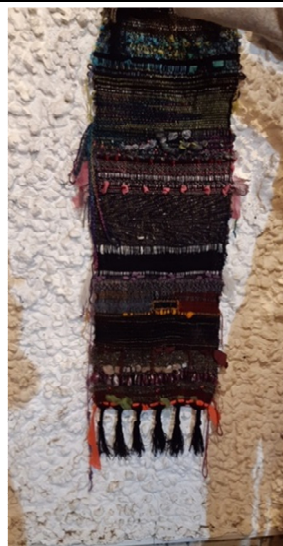
Judy Johnson (Committee member)

Sally Ross (Committee member)

2019/ 2020 Meetings

Meeting Date	Theme Display	Newsletter Deadline
13 November	Christmas	25 October
11 December	Viewers' Choice	29 November
12 February	Blackwork	31 January
11 March		28 February
8 April		27 March
13 May	AGM	1 May

New Work October



Catherine E – Indigo Dyeing/Natural dyed threads, Saori weaving



Alice A – Latchhook Rug



Louise H – Machine Embroidery Egyptian Ladies



Louise H – Bellpull
Cross Stitch



Pam B– Swan Green – Lyndhurst – Canvas Work



Christina P – Beading

All Photos by
Marie Cassino
unless otherwise
specified



Sarah H – Canvas work Round Robin



Rhiannon McK – Flax and Willow Basket